(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have put some conditions to elevate the above two universities;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government have sent any Central team to assess the infrastructure and other facilities in both the universities; and

(e) if not, when is it going to sent its team?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (e) An Expert Committee to identify such promising academic institutions which have potential of upgrading to the level of IITs was set up by the Government which has since submitted its report. The University College of Engineering combined with the University college of Technology, both belonging to Osmania University and Andhra University College of Engineering are amongst the seven short-listed Institutes identified by the Expert Committee. While short-listing, the Committee was, however, of the view that in the light of substantial gap between the selected Institutes and IITs it would not be correct to position these Institutes straight way alongside the IITs. The Institutes were asked to prepare a Vision Document in order to upgrade them to the level of IIT. The Vision Documents have been received. A team to assess the infrastructure and other facilities will be sent, if necessary

Review of Bharat Shiksha Kosh

1453. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to review Bharat Shiksha Kosh and to put a ban on the direct flow of the Tax-free donations of alumni associations to their *alma mater*;

(b) if so, the status report prepared in this regard; and

(c) by when a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) No, Sir. The earlier instructions issued on 21.2.2003 which mandated all the autonomous bodies/ Public Sector Undertakings under the Department of Secondary and Higher Education and the Department of Elementary Education and Literacy, to route the donations / grants from any external sources (other than Government support) for educational and research activities, through the Bharat Shiksha Kosh, were withdrawn *vide* revised instructions issued on 27.7.2004. These instructions continue to be in force at present.

Assimilation of nursery education to elementary education

1454. SHRI RAJU PARMAR:
SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL.
SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering making the nursery education as part and parcel of the elementary education;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are aware that admission in nursery schools in metros is continued to be given to the affluent classes of society; and

(d) if so, what steps are being taken to ensure that every child is admitted in the nursery class?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (d) The Constitution (Eighty Sixth Amendment) Act 2002, has already amended Article 45 of the Constitution to provide that "the State shall endeavour to provide for early childhood care and education to all children upto the age of six years."

The National Policy on Education, 1986, as modified in 1992, stipulates that Early Childhood Care & Education will receive high priority and be suitably integrated with the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme, wherever possible. No fees is charged from children registered with the Anganwadi Centres opened under the ICDS scheme.